



City Hall Park Improvements Project Background

CIP Statement – This project implements improvements associated with transforming City Hall Park, located directly south of the King County Courthouse, into an attractive gateway to downtown Seattle. The scope of work for this project is to be developed through a community process in 2005, with consideration for potential impacts on nearby parks (Prefontaine Fountain Plaza, Fortson Square, Occidental Square and Pioneer Square Park). This project is part of the Mayor's initiative to improve downtown parks. Significant changes in the park's uses and design may add programming costs and these will be considered in a separate process.

The Mayor's 2005 – 2006 budget included a request for \$500,000 for planning, design and implementation of improvements to City Hall Park. Council approved \$100,000 in the 2005 – 2006 budget for planning and preliminary design.

Planning and Design

Nakano Associates with Jerry Ernst were hired to work on a schematic design. A Project Advisory Team (PAT) comprised of agency and community stakeholders provides ongoing review of proposed improvements. Parks will hold three larger community workshops to involve the larger community. The King County Executive has asked the County Facilities Management Division to coordinate closely with Parks and is represented on the PAT. The County has expressed interest in coordinating maintenance and supervision of the park.

Project Advisory Team (PAT) – The PAT provides ongoing review and recommendations.

- ♦ Jordan Royer, Mayor's Office
- ♦ Laura Inveen, Downtown Emergency Services Center Board and King County Judge
- ♦ Cindy Bogar, SAMIS Land Company
- ♦ Craig Montgomery, Executive Director Pioneer Square Community Association
- ♦ Tamara Menteer, Frye Hotel
- ♦ Peggy Dreisinger, Metropolitan Improvement District
- ♦ Neil Lukas, Resident
- ♦ Bob Peth and Francisco Tello, SPD Community Policing Officers
- ♦ Bud Parker, King County Facilities Management
- ♦ Alfred Poole, Human Services Department
- ♦ Amit Ranade, Board of Park Commissioners

Related Issues

Morrison Hotel DESC – The City will be constructing a 8,600 square feet hygiene and service center for homeless men at the Morrison Hotel. The Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) will manage the center and is represented on the City Hall Park PAT.

Prefontaine Place and Fountain – Parks has allocated \$128,000 to renovate the nearby Prefontaine Place Fountain to enhance safety, reduce maintenance, and increase resource conservation. Design is on hold pending during schematic design process for City Hall Park.

Next Steps

Seattle Parks is dedicated to developing a schematic plan that is supported by the community, the PAT, King County, senior City staff and elected officials, the Board of Park Commissioners, the Seattle Design Commission and the Pioneer Square Preservation Board.

This project will help build a stronger community and healthy families, one of Mayor Greg Nickels' highest priorities for Seattle.

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/maintenance/CityHallPark.htm> * cathy.tuttle@seattle.gov (206) 684-7033